

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing gas generating mixtures comprising grinding a nitrogenous fuel together with an oxidizing agent and optionally additional additives, in the presence of at least one passivator, wherein a portion of said oxidizing agent acts as a passivator, and wherein said grinding is for a time sufficient to form a mixture having an average grain size of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said passivator is at least one friction agent selected from the group consisting of iron oxide, aluminum oxide, tin dioxide and titanium dioxide.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said passivator is a burn moderator selected from the group consisting of a metal, metal oxide, metal carbonate and metal sulfide.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein said oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of tungsten trioxide, cerium-IV oxide, ammonium cerium nitrate and luteonitrate.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the mixture comprises between 1 and 15 wt.-% of the passivator.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said grinding is conducted with a ball or pinned disk mill.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of tetrazoles, triazoles, triazines, cyanic acid, ureas, derivatives thereof and salts thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said fuel is selected from the group consisting of nitroguanidine and 5-aminotetrazole.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said oxidizing agent is a nitrate.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of iron oxide, tungsten trioxide, cerium-IV oxide, ammonium cerium nitrate and luteonitrate.

26. (Previously Presented) A gas generating agent comprising at least one nitrogen-containing fuel, at least one oxidizing agent, optionally an additional additive and at least one passivator, prepared by the process of claim 15.

27. (Previously Presented) The gas generating agent according to claim 26, wherein said fuel is nitroguanidine and said oxidizing agent is an alkali nitrate.

28. (Previously Presented) The gas generating agent according to claim 27, wherein said passivator is iron oxide.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~components are~~ mixture is ground to an average grain size of 10 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said oxidizing agent is at least one nitrate selected from the group consisting of ammonium nitrate, an alkali metal nitrate or an alkaline earth metal nitrate.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said nitrate is at least one nitrate selected from the group consisting of lithium nitrate, sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and strontium nitrate.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for producing gas generating mixtures comprising:  
grinding together a nitrogenous fuel component, an alkali nitrate oxidizing agent and 1-15 wt.% of at least one passivating friction agent for a time sufficient to form a mixture having an intimate homogeneity between the fuel component, oxidizing agent and friction agent and an average grain size of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

wherein said at least one passivating friction agent is selected from iron oxide, aluminum oxide, tin dioxide or titanium dioxide.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein said nitrogenous fuel is nitroguanidine.